

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A pneumatic support[[],] comprising:

a gas-tight[[],] elongated hollow body of a flexible material adapted to be pressurized with compressed gas;

at least one compression element which, responsive to application of a transverse operational load, is axially compressed;

at least one tension element which, responsive to application of the transverse operational load, is axially tensioned;

~~at least two load bearing elements;~~

~~wherein a first of the at least two load bearing elements is operable to support a compression load;~~

~~wherein a second of the at least two load bearing elements is operable to support a tension load;~~

~~wherein the at least two load bearing elements are arranged spaced apart from each other around the hollow body such that, responsive to application of an operative load, the first of the at least two load bearing elements is compressed and the second of the at least two load bearing elements is tensioned;~~

~~wherein the at least two load bearing elements trace an arc when viewed in a first plane and trace a straight line when viewed in a second plane perpendicular to the first plane;~~

wherein the hollow body has a tapered shape toward both of [[its]] ends of the hollow body; and

wherein the at least one compression element and the at least one tension element at least two load bearing elements are positively connected to one another at a common node located at their respective ends of the hollow body;[[.]]

wherein, when the hollow body is inflated, the at least one compression element and the at least one tension element lie on a generator line of the hollow body; and

wherein, relative to the application of the transverse operational load, the at least one compression element lies on a near side of the hollow body and the at lease one tension element lies on a far side of the hollow body.

2. (Currently Amended) The pneumatic support according to claim 1, wherein the at least one tension element and the at least one compression element ~~two load bearing elements~~ are arranged around the hollow body in a rotationally symmetrical fashion.

3. (Withdrawn) The pneumatic support according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the at least two compression/tension elements only needs to absorb tensile forces and is realized in the form of a tension element;

wherein the at least one of the at least two compression/tension elements only needs to absorb compressive forces and is realized in the form of a compression member; and

wherein the at least one compression member is non-positively fixed on the hollow body along a surface line thereof and non-positively connected to the tension element at the two ends.

4. (Withdrawn) The pneumatic support according to claim 3, wherein the at least one compression member extends along a surface line of the hollow body that lies diametrically opposite of the tension element and is non-positively fixed on the hollow body.

5. (Previously Presented) The pneumatic support according to claim 1, wherein the hollow body comprises an essentially circular cross section along a longitudinal axis.

6. (Previously Presented) The pneumatic support according to claim 5, wherein the hollow body is divided into a plurality of chambers that can be pressurized transverse to the longitudinal axis, wherein the plurality of chambers extend over the entire cross-section of the hollow body.

7. (Previously Presented) The pneumatic support according to claim 6, wherein the plurality of chambers are pressurized to different degrees and subjected to a higher pressure toward the ends of the hollow body than towards a center of the hollow body.

8. (Withdrawn) The pneumatic support according to claim 1, wherein the hollow body is divided into a plurality of chambers that can be pressurized and lie parallel to a longitudinal axis, wherein the plurality of chambers extend over the entire length of the hollow body.

9. (Withdrawn) The pneumatic support according to claim 1, wherein end pieces are provided on both ends, wherein compression members, tension elements and said compression/tension elements are non-positively fixed on said end pieces.

10. (Withdrawn) The pneumatic support according to claim 1, wherein the compression/tension elements are elastically bendable, and wherein a support can be rolled up or folded up in a non-pressurized state.

11. (Currently Amended) The pneumatic support according to claim 1, wherein the at least one tension element and the at least one compression element ~~two load-bearing elements~~ are fixed on the hollow body via at least one of:

a plurality of bands that extend around the hollow body and are fixed on the at least one tension element and the at least one compression element ~~load-bearing elements~~;

pockets, wherein the at least one tension element and the at least one compression element ~~two load-bearing elements~~ are inserted into said pockets; and

welt-type connections.

12. (Currently Amended) The pneumatic support according to claim 1, wherein the hollow body is composed of:

an outer cover;

at least one inner bladder inserted therein; and

wherein the outer cover comprises ~~is manufactured of~~ a flexible material of limited stretchability and the inner bladder comprises ~~is manufactured of~~ an air-tight elastic membrane.

13. (Previously Presented) The pneumatic support according to claim 12, wherein the outer cover of the hollow body is divided into a plurality of chambers by means of webs.

14. (Withdrawn) The pneumatic support according to claim 1, wherein the support is realized in an arc-shaped fashion.

15. (Withdrawn) The pneumatic support according to claim 14, wherein ends of the arc-shaped support are connected by an external tension element that does not adjoin the hollow body.

16. (Previously Presented) The pneumatic support according to claim 1, wherein the pneumatic support can be utilized as support elements in building construction and civil engineering works.

17. (Currently Amended) The pneumatic support according to claim 1, wherein the pneumatic support ~~is can~~ be utilized as bridge supports, wherein a roadway construction is placed on an upper side of the at least one compression element ~~an upper load-bearing of the at least two load-bearing elements~~ and fixed thereon.